

A Special Message About Project Safety After the Wildfires

Our project team joins the Valley Center community in its rebuilding process after the recent wildfires.

Construction Schedule

Q: Is the construction work schedule going to change as a result of the fires?

A: The construction start date has moved from November 10th to November 17th to allow our team time to coordinate with utility companies as they repair damage to utility lines in the vicinity of the project.

Q: Why not postpone this public works project until the community recovers and rebuilds from the fires?

A: A couple of factors have contributed to the decision in continuing with this project. First, while the fire burned vegetation on both sides of this segment of Valley Center Road the road itself was not impacted other than damaged guardrail which will be repaired. Secondly, postponing the project will only delay the improvement to Valley Center Road which everyone recognizes has major benefits to the traveling public and community in general.

Traffic Control

Q: During the project, how will emergency service vehicle access to Valley Center Road be affected?

A: The project team is coordinating with the fire marshal to address emergency service vehicle access during construction. If necessary, the emergency service vehicles will have access through the project work area as well as through the available lanes that are kept open to regular traffic flow. Our partnering with the CHP during the project and our use of changeable message signs will also help in emergency situations.

Q: How will traffic change because of construction?

A: The three lanes that exist today will be reduced to two lanes, one in each direction. There will be no road closures, only intermittent lane closures. One lane in each direction will be maintained throughout except for two instances: 1) 60-second lane closures (outside peak traffic times) to allow truck crossings and 2) intermittent nighttime lane closures for drainage work and installation of traffic control devices. The project team will be coordinating with the CHP to monitor and evaluate traffic during the day.

Environmental Issues

Q: What will be done to protect the road from soil erosion and flooding?

A: There are both immediate and temporary strategies as well as long-term strategies to help manage flooding, soil erosion and mudslides. In the short term, the contractor will construct a temporary drainage system that controls runoff in the construction area. In addition the County is working with a recognized expert in the field of post-fire erosion control to design an erosion control system for the project that the contractor will implement. Strategies such as erosion control blankets and interim hydroseeding (a spray that creates a vegetation blanket that, when rooted, will help stabilize the hillside) are being researched and considered. At the same time, we will implement long-term solutions so that the new slopes created have appropriate ground cover to mitigate slope erosion.

Q: How will the contractor help to control air quality as construction increases dust and the fires have created significant soot and ashes?

A: The contractor will use water trucks and sweepers in the construction area to control the dust from construction and the ashes remaining from the wildfire. This watering down process helps to mitigate air quality impacts of projects.

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding. We looking forward to working with you.

Fire Recovery Assistance and Services

The County of San Diego and other organizations have established various emergency services to assist with residents that have been affected by the fires. Following is a list of resources available in Valley Center as well as a list of general hotline numbers.

Valley Center Local Assistance Center ("LAC")

Valley Center Road Maintenance Station
28565 Cole Grade Road

Hours: Monday - Friday, 7 am- 7 pm
Saturday and Sunday, 8 am - 5 pm.

On November 4, the San Diego County Disaster Recovery Team opened a Local Assistance Center in Valley Center to help residents recover from the fires. This LAC will offer assistance from:

- County Health and Human Services Agency
- American Red Cross
- Building Officials
- Mental Health Professionals
- California Office of Emergency Services
- Small Business Administration
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Property Tax Reduction Information
- Utilities
- Various Volunteer Services

Sandbags

The County of San Diego, Public Works Department, is providing residents in burned areas with free sandbags and other erosion control devices to help protect their property from possible erosion, flooding, and mudslides.

Sandbags can be picked up at: 28565 Cole Grade Road

Hours: 7:30 am- 4 pm

Natural Resources Council

Vic Smothers, Fallbrook Office
760-723-2529

The Natural Resources Council offers general technical assistance, site visits, and site analysis on individual properties for Valley Center community members. For more information on these services, please call or visit their booth at the LAC. (See LAC info above).

County Fire Recovery Hotline

858-495-5494

County of San Diego Website

www.sdcountry.ca.gov

Rebuilding Hotline

866-402-6044

FEMA Help Line

800-621-FEMA

Ash Removal Information

888-846-0800

Waste/Debris Removal

866-402-6044

Air Quality (recorded)

858-650-4777

Respiratory Problems, American Lung Assn.

7 am -7pm

800-586-4872

Red Cross Shelter

800-951-5600

Mental Health Crisis Line

24 hours

800-479-3339

Environmental Health, Food, and Water Safety

8 am - 5 pm

Spanish speakers available

800-253-9933

County Animal Shelters

619-236-4250